

# Adoption Tails

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire

Fall 2010



## Thank You Volunteers!!

The day did not start off so well. For a summer with very little rain, none of the staff were complaining when the rain started to fall in the early morning hours on Thursday, August 5th. That evening was the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, and Accu weather said that the rain would stop by 5pm. Pushing the event to the rain date wasn't an ideal choice as the staff members had already baked their goodies, assembled their salads, and created their culinary masterpieces. The hot dog steamer was already steaming!

Luckily, at 4:45pm, the sun started to shine and the pavement began to dry. Staff and volunteers jumped into action to finish the outdoor set up still needed. Within minutes, more than 100 volunteers started to arrive. Each volunteer was provided a handwritten thank you note from the staff members and a large bar of Lindt chocolate, the result of a generous donation from the Lindt Chocolate company. The volunteers were pleasantly surprised with complimentary chair massages provided by the students of Seacoast Career Schools. This was definitely a hit, with more than one volunteer

**ARL  
Volunteers  
enjoying  
the  
barbeque  
provided in  
their honor**



suggesting we make it a daily benefit! Nightmares of running out of food were unfounded and everyone enjoyed tasty offerings affectionately prepared by the staff.

**A great time was had by two and four-legged creatures alike**

The staff enjoyed getting to meet so many of the dogs and family members of the volunteers that they had heard so much about. As our Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Galletta said to the volunteers, "We couldn't run this shelter without you. I hope you understand how true these words are. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your time, talents and treasure."



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of New Hampshire  
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**Mission Statement**

Pets give us so much. They teach us compassion, protect our families, work as therapy professionals, and entertain us. Pets comfort us when we've had a bad day and touch our hearts with their unconditional love. At the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire we save pets' lives, and they enrich ours.

# Message From The President & CEO

Dear Friends of the League –

Every night, to remind myself how fortunate I am I write five gratitudes for the day, and while my wonderful husband and four quirky-yet-well-loved dogs often figure prominently in the list, so do the many things I have the privilege of experiencing as I work for homeless animals at the League.

As we get ready to begin a new season, it occurred to me that an **Animal Rescue League of NH List of Five Gratitudes** might be timely, so here goes:



❶ I am grateful that I found an organization where I can put the skills I learned in my 23 years in corporate America to work for something about which I am so passionate! While I love animals, my natural skills are not veterinary in nature, so this job is a blessing.



Before



After

❷ I am grateful that we are able to employ our Animal Cruelty Investigator, Maureen, and that she has the ability to steel herself and calmly work through horrifying situations that would reduce most of us to a puddle of ineffective tears. She always has the animals' best interests at heart, never forgets the bigger picture, and works tirelessly to create a humane world.



Volunteer of the Year Joan Bajek with volunteer Anne Greer and Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Galletta



Feline Fan & Volunteer Gloria MacVane



Volunteers Jen Ruimerman and Megan MacDonald work at the 2009 Pet Step



Volunteers Ron & Christine Beehler

❸ I am grateful for the thousands of hours our dedicated volunteers put in to help our animals and support our mission. If we had to staff all the roles our volunteers fill at the League, we'd be out of money in a week. Our volunteers care for the animals (and staff) through gifts of their time, talent and treasure – thank you!



Bao Bao the ShihTzu with his new Mom ready to go to his forever home in Boston!



Lanka enjoying the new area

Our new light, airy, climate-controlled and QUIET dog adoption center, 100% funded by our donors.

❹ I am grateful for the many adopters who open their homes to our residents (almost 1,500 each year) to give them much deserved second chances at happiness!

❺ I am grateful for the community that supports us so generously that we are able to help ~2,000 pets each year, providing them with a comfortable way-station, healthy food, and lots of love from an incredibly dedicated team of staff and volunteers! What an honor to do this work.

# Update On The Mont Vernon 44



*Conditions in their Mont Vernon home*

Most people have already heard about one of our biggest cases this year, the Mont Vernon 44, which involved the seizure of forty-four small breed dogs from a home in Mont Vernon, NH back in April. The media coverage on this case was widespread and eventually helped in finding homes for a majority of the dogs.

As with many of our cases, the complaint initiated from someone who had been in a home in which the condition of the animals in the home as well as the home itself, were cause for concern. With enough information, a warrant may be issued as it was in this case, and all animals found within the property are allowed to be removed and held until the case moves through the court system.

What caused some confusion within the media, was that at the time the forty-four dogs were being removed, the owner opted to voluntarily surrender twenty-two of them. The news reports mentioned that twenty-two dogs were removed, causing a great number of people to worry that the other twenty-two dogs were left behind to an unknown fate. Instead, on April 13th, 2010, all forty-four dogs were removed from the home and transported back to the care of the Animal Rescue League of NH. Of the forty-four dogs, twenty-two of them immediately became the property of the League. The remaining twenty-two were to be held as court custody (evidence).

Within that same week, the owner volunteered to surrender an additional nine dogs. That left the remaining thirteen court-held dogs that we continued to care for until the final court proceeding in August.

During what is typically a busy time of the year anyway, our spring and summer season was even busier with this large number of additional dogs added to it. What we couldn't have known was that in June we would be involved in another similar situation in which forty cats and a dog were removed from a home in Deering. With one entire cat room and a whole section of our dog kennels dedicated to these special needs 'case' animals, our valuable resources, including our volunteers were stretched.

Possibly the hardest part of a case like the Mont Vernon 44 was how hard everyone worked, the staff, our volunteers and the wonderful veterinarians who donated their time to help treat their various medical and grooming issues, and how all this time and energy inevitably leads to a special bond with these victims. When you see an animal come into the shelter in a less than desirable condition, an animal who may be too shy at first to even let you handle them, and then day by day, week by week, there is a transformation that eventually takes place. During this transformation you become a champion for this animal, or many animals, and the thought that, as determined by a court, you may not get to see the particular animal that you worked for, all that time, get a chance to find a wonderful new home and instead it may possibly be returned to where it first came from.



*Shea after grooming*

After four months of care and rehabilitation, a plea agreement was made in which the League was awarded custody of eleven of the remaining Mont Vernon dogs, with the remaining two being spayed per a court ordered agreement and returned to their original owner. While there was quite a bit of concern over the two dogs that would be going back, we need to focus on their improved health conditions and the potential that two dogs will be cared for where forty four couldn't possibly be.

For the dogs like Sassy Sally, Shady Lady, Jeremy, Sunny, Meg, and so many more, congratulations to all their adopters. We thank you for your support and for taking one of these special dogs into your home and hearts. We are all better animal care professionals for having known and cared for them all and for what they taught us about forgiveness and hope.

## Camp Critter



*Happy Campers!*

This summer was another successful year of Camp Critter, a week-long summer day camp held for four weeks throughout the summer season. Children ranging in ages from seven to 11 years of age, spent their days with ARL-NH Humane Educator Diane Frost learning how to be a responsible pet owner and enjoying pet-related crafts and activities.

Camp has allowed the children the opportunity to spend quality time with animals at the shelter and participate in upcoming fundraisers by encouraging their creative minds. The children designed raffle baskets, decorated for the annual Kitten Shower, made adoption posters for the League and thank you posters for the volunteer barbeque.

Each day, the children brought home crafts such as bird houses, door hangers, bird feeders and pencil holders that they created. Some of favorite activities were spending time with Ms. Frost's therapy dogs, specifically Sara, one of the 44 dogs from the Mont Vernon hoarding case the League was involved in rescuing back in April.

The Pet Step Planning Committee wishes to thank our amazing sponsors for supporting this annual event. Please consider supporting the following businesses that support the League:

**2010 Pet Step Presenter: Animal Medical Center of New England**



Bedford Pharmacy  
Lockridge Animal Hospital  
Ansell and Anderson, PA  
People's United Bank  
Caryn's Country Convenience, LLC  
Tom Peters State Farm Insurance  
Banfield, The Pet Hospital  
Critter Control of NH

The Petango Store  
Food for Pets, Amherst  
Food for Pets, Manchester  
Devine Flooring LLC  
Stonyfield Farm  
Daniel Webster Animal Hospital  
Dogpoopbags.com  
Natura Pet Products

## Employee Spotlight



*Robin McCune and her dog Rocky (ARL Alumnus)*

Robin McCune (formerly Robin Ahlgren) started working at the League back in 1998, after leaving Easter Seals NH, another non-profit. Hired initially as an Animal Care Technician who did veterinarian technician work and animal adoptions, she soon transitioned to Assistant Shelter Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Although her passion for animals has always been obvious, Robin loved working with the volunteers and remained the coordinator for six years, continuing her volunteer work even after moving in the role of Director of Development.

After the birth of her son Isak, Robin decided to decrease her hours and start working part-time so she could focus more on her family. Robin became the Event Coordinator for the shelter, a job that she finds creative, although challenging at times. The job allows for creativity which is important to Robin, as her background is in art. Although she has wandered down a much different path than her original plan of becoming an art therapist, Robin feels that she has grown tremendously as a person through her connection to the shelter.

Robin lives in Goffstown, NH with her husband Adam, son Isak and step-son Broden. She also is the proud mom of a mixed breed dog named Wilbur and an English Bulldog named Lola, as well as three cats, Jack, Eli and Addie. All of her animals were rescues, three from the Animal Rescue League of NH.



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# Come And Join The ARL of NH At Our Fundraising Events!



The ARL NH receives no state or federal funding. In addition to donations, we depend on the income from the events each year to sustain our programs and services, which collectively cost over \$82,000 per month.



Please attend these events and show your support for the League!  
For more information about any upcoming event, call Robin McCune at (603) 472-5714 or (603) 472-3647 or e-mail [robin@rescueleague.org](mailto:robin@rescueleague.org) [robin@rescueleague.org](mailto:robin@rescueleague.org).

## “My Dogs are Barking” 5k Road Race, Saturday October 16th at 10am



On Your Mark...Get Set...Go!!! Yes- it is about time that we have organized a road race! We are excited to announce our very first race which will benefit the ARL-NH. The run will start and finish at Peter Woodbury School in Bedford, NH. To register for the race go to: [www.rescueleague.org/2010race.cfm](http://www.rescueleague.org/2010race.cfm).

## Estate Planning with Pets in Mind -

### What happens to my pet if something happens to me?

**Thursday, November 4th, 5:30 – 6:30PM, Animal Rescue League of NH**

Join our three panelists for the informational seminar. Attorneys Christine Anderson & David Craig, along with Financial Advisor Steven Dalton will discuss and answer questions on ways to provide financial support for your pets and how you can ensure the caring and nurturing of homeless animals long into the future. Space is limited. Please respond by 10/29 by calling Donna at 472-5788 or email [donna@rescueleague.org](mailto:donna@rescueleague.org)

## 12th Annual Live and Silent Auction Friday, November 5th

We are in the planning stages of our 12th Annual Live and Silent Auction which will be held on Friday, November 5th at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. Tickets for this event are only \$50 and include dinner. Don't miss this event- it's fun, it's energetic and everyone has a blast!



## Annual Craft Fair: Saturday, November 27th and 28th: 10-5pm

Our annual craft fair always generates tons of foot traffic and is enjoyed by all who come through our doors that weekend. The craft fair raffle is a big hit each year as well as the yummy treat sale put on by ARL-NH volunteers. Don't miss it this year!

## Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale



Get your fresh balsam fir tree at the League's tree and wreath sale. Starting the day after Thanksgiving and continuing through Christmas or until the trees sell out; this fundraiser allows us to meet the most wonderful people looking for their holiday tree. Come visit us again this year and support the animals with your holiday purchase.

## Pet Photos With Santa



Save the Date! Saturday, December 4th from 10-5pm we will hold our annual Photos with Santa fundraiser. Bring your pet or bring your family and get your holiday photos

# Obedience Tips & Happenings



*Advanced Obedience Graduation*

Hope you all enjoyed your summer. It sure was a hot one! Now that the traveling, and days by the pool have ended and the kids have headed back to school, why not consider enrolling you and your dog in an obedience class today? Classes aren't just for when you and your dog are having troubles communicating, classes are also a great way to help with boredom and are a great way for you and your dog to get out there and socialize!

We sure do have a lot of things happening in classes this year. Thank you to our 3rd grade obedience families (graduates of our advanced class) for their support of our annual Pet Step dog walk fundraiser this year. Not only do these families take fantastic care of their own four-legged canines, but they walk and fundraise every year in support of all the animals that will come through the shelter doors.

Even more exciting happenings going on right now in our classes are all the adult dogs that are coming in just for a refresher. More and more dog owners are realizing that their adult dogs can still learn, and that as we always say classes aren't just for problems but to help continue to strengthen relationships and a way just to have some fun with your adult or senior canine.

For more information on classes, please email Maureen at [thecrazycanine@yahoo.com](mailto:thecrazycanine@yahoo.com). Come, sit-stay, have fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



*August 2010 3rd Grade Walk*

# Adoption Spotlights



*Stubby*

Stubby is a wonderfully affectionate, confident cat. She is a nine-year-old spayed female who loves to chat. She will jump in your lap and walk back and forth, which means “pet me, then keep petting me.” She gives gentle head butts, chats in a very nice voice, and always looks right into your eyes. Stubby is an indoor girl and peacefully coexisted with the very mellow dog in her former home. She’s missing some of her tail, but it isn’t sensitive at all. When you come visit her – and you certainly should if you’re looking for a very nice, affectionate cat – ask a staff member for a brush, she loves that. Stubby’s Feline-ality is Sidekick – Orange.



*Chin Chin*

This is Chin Chin, a one-and-a-half-year-old female Chinchilla. Chin Chin came to the shelter when her owners lifestyle changed. Chin Chin enjoys living in a spacious cage and loves to run on her exercise wheel. She likes to chew on wood toys and will come right up from a treat. Chinchillas can live 15-20 years so she is looking for a longterm commitment from her new family.



*Poochie*

Meet Poochie, a two-year-old Beagle mix. Poochie was found abandoned by her owner and brought to the shelter. She is a very energetic girl and would benefit from lots of daily activity. Poochie is open to living with cats but would prefer to be the only dog in a home with older children. Poochie loves to play with all types of toys and “keep away” seems to be her favorite game. She already knows basic commands like “sit” and “come” and will just need some refinement on leash manners and jumping. If you are looking for a fun friend that enjoys an active lifestyle come say hi to Poochie!



*Muffet*

For a great companion cat, you have to meet Muffet, a 12-year-old spayed female. Very pretty, chock-full of character, and very affectionate on her own terms (the wisdom of age– she knows her own mind.) She really loves petting when she’s in the mood. She’ll rub and rub your legs, roll over and show her tummy – all those “I’m in ecstasy” moves. Sometimes she’s in an “I need my space” mood, but she’s easy to read, so there won’t be any surprises. Muffet is an indoor-only cat, declawed in front here because of a family illness. She is a couch potato, a real champion relaxer! She loves to hang out and watch television with you. She’s the absolute best at keeping you company and looking good. Come spend some time with Muffet. She’s really extraordinary. Muffet’s Feline-ality is The Executive – Orange

